

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims pending

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-10, 12-13, 16-19, and 21-24.
- After this Response: Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-13, 16-19, and 21-24.

Canceled claims: 6 and 7

Withdrawn claims: 11, 14-15, and 20 (previously).

Amended claims: Claims 1, 19, and 23

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for running wire, the apparatus comprising:

a projectile launcher, comprising:

a housing including a cylindrical tube having an open proximal end and a closed distal end;

a biasing member attached to a piston comprising a concave face within the cylindrical tube; and

a locking member for retaining the piston in a biased position and for triggering release of the piston,

a pull string within the cylindrical tube,

a deformable projectile within the cylindrical tube, wherein the deformable projectile is adapted to connect to the pull string;

wherein the piston cradles the projectile, accelerates along the cylindrical tube upon release and propels the pull string attached to the deformable projectile toward a target, and

wherein the projectile and the pull string are not connected to the projectile launcher upon release of the piston.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the pull string is attached to one or more wires.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the projectile comprises a deformable sack containing weighted filler material.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the projectile further comprises at least one fastener.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the pull string is attached to at least one fastener.

6.-7. (Canceled).

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the biasing member comprises a coil spring.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the coil spring is attached to the housing.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the piston includes a notch for engaging the locking member.

11. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the piston includes a groove for engaging the locking member.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the piston includes one or more guide pins for moving the piston.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the one or more guide pins slide within corresponding slots in the housing.

14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the piston includes a rod for moving the piston.

15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the rod includes a plunger handle extending from the housing.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising one or more rails shielding the locking member from accidental triggering.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the locking member comprises a latch.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the latch comprises a retaining member for engaging the piston.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for running wire, the apparatus comprising:

projectile launching means, comprising:

a piston comprising a concave face;

biasing means for accelerating a the piston, wherein the biasing means is attached to the piston; and

locking means for retaining the piston in a biased position and for triggering release of the piston, wherein the piston accelerates upon release; and

a pull string;

a deformable projectile attached to the pull string;

wherein the deformable projectile is nested to the concave face of the piston;

wherein release of the piston propels the pull string attached to the deformable projectile toward a target; and

wherein the deformable projectile and the pull string are not connected to any portion of the projectile launching means upon release of the piston.

20. (Withdrawn) A method for running wire, the method comprising:

creating a path to a desired target;

propelling a pull string attached to a projectile toward the desired target;

using the pull string to draw wire to the desired target.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the projectile further comprising a locating beacon.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, the projectile further comprising a luminescent surface.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for running wire, comprising:

a housing comprising an open proximal end and a closed distal end;

a piston comprising a concave face, the piston at least partially enclosed within the housing;

a coil spring, the coil spring attached to the piston and at least partially enclosed within the housing;

a locking device, comprising:

a lock; and

a trigger, the lock configured to hold the coil spring in a compressed position and the trigger configured to release the coil spring from the compressed position when the trigger is activated; and

a wire;

a projectile, comprising:

a deformable sack, wherein the deformable sack is inelastic;

weighted material;

a ~~wire~~ an attaching mechanism configured to attach ~~the~~ a wire to the projectile; and

a locating beacon;

wherein the projectile is configured to nest within the concave face of the piston and to sit within the housing; and be

wherein the projectile is propelled upon activation of the trigger; and

wherein the projectile and the wire are entirely disconnected from the apparatus upon activation of the trigger and exit from the housing.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the locating beacon comprises one of: a glowing stick, an audible beacon, a strobing light, or a GPS device.